(b) if so, the status of the proposal; and

(c) whether the relief asked for has been provided to the State Government and if not, the time-frame by which it would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A request was received from the Government of Orissa to increase the wheat allocation for the Above Poverty Line Category (APL) from 7793 tonnes to 24,000 tonnes per month. However, keeping in view the reduced stock of wheat in the Central Pool, the request of the State Government was not acceded to, as the allocation of wheat for Above Poverty Line (APL) category has been rationalized for all States/UTs, including the State of Orissa, on the basis of each State's average offtake for the last 3 years or the last year's offtake, whichever was lower. A 25% cut on this has been imposed in respect of rice consuming States and Delhi for APL category. However, there has been no change in the overall APL entitlements and the State Government/UTs can ask for allocation of rice in lieu of reduction of wheat allocation under APL. Notwithstanding this position, in the wake of improved stock position, the Central Government has made an additional allocation of 17,000 tonnes of APL wheat in four installments for the months of September, October, November and December, 2006 for Orissa.

Quality of goods under PDS

†1841. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new public distribution policy keeping in view the people living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures being taken by Government to ensure quality of goods which are to be distributed through Public Distribution System; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to initiate stringent action against such defaulting agents and to check adulteration of such items?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, strengthening of Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is an ongoing process. The Central Government have recently initiated a number of steps to improve the performance of the TPDS and to ensure that the foodgrains reach the targeted beneficiaries. Recently an action plan was drawn up to strengthen the TPDS which includes the following:

1. States should undertake a campaign for review of Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists, to eliminate ghost ration cards.
2. Strict action should be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. In this respect information asked for under clauses 8 and 9 of PDS Control Order, to be sent by States.
3. For the sake of transparency, involvement of elected Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members in distribution of foodgrains be ensured. As far as possible, Fair Price Shop (FPS) licences be given to self help groups, gram panchayats, cooperatives, etc.
4. BPL/AAY lists should be displayed on all FPS.
5. District-wise and FPS-wise allocation of foodgrains should be put up on websites and other prominent places, for public scrutiny.
6. Wherever possible, door step delivery of foodgrains at the FPS should be ensured by States, instead of letting private transporters/ wholesalers to transport goods.
7. Timely availability of foodgrains at FPS level and fixed dates of distribution to ration card holders should be ensured.
8. Training of members of FPS level Vigilance Committees should be ensured. Proposals for funding training can be sent to the GOI.
9. Computerization of TPDS operations be undertaken.

In addition, the Government has also taken steps for introducing electronic transfer of funds to FCI by the States and issued instructions for display of banners/Boards on the wind shield as well as rear ends of the trucks/vehicles carrying PDS articles indicating name of State Government, destination, commodity and agent's name.

(c) To ensure the distribution of good quality of foodgrains to the beneficiaries, instructions were issued to carry out joint inspection by FCI and State Governments officials while the foodgrains are delivered from the FCI godowns to satisfy themselves about the quality of the foodgrains.

(d) the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 (*vide* clauses 8 and 9) can be evoked to punish the guilty persons who involve in malpractices in the implementation of TPDS.

Foodgrains production

1842. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains produced during 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) whether the production was in excess or short of the requirement in the respective years and in case of shortage, the quantity thereof; and

(c) how the shortage was made good of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The production of foodgrains from 2001-02 to 2005-06 is given in the table below:

(million tonnes)

Commodity	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*
Foodgrains	212.85	174.77	213.19	198.36	208.30

*4th advance estimates released on 15.07.2006.

(b) and (c) There has been no shortage in the case of cereals during the years 2001-02 to 2005-06. However, in the case of pulses there has been shortage in production *vis-a-vis* requirement, which was met through imports. The import of pulses during the years 2001-02 to 2005-06 is given in the following table:

000' tonnes

Commodity	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*
Pulses	2217.82	1992.29	1723.33	1339.45	1608.24